

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed December 14, 2006. Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-46, and 48-51 are pending in the Application and are rejected in the Office Action. For the reasons given below, Applicants believe all claims to be allowable over the cited references. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Section 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-46, and 48-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,711,159 issued to Grabelsky et al. ("*Grabelsky*").

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); M.P.E.P § 2131. In addition, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claims" and "[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989); *In re Bond*, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990); M.P.E.P § 2131 (*emphasis added*).

Claim 1 of the Application recites the following:

A method for call routing, comprising:
receiving a call request at a first call manager from a first telephony device coupled to a packet-based network, the call request including a telephone number associated with a second telephony device;
accessing a route list associated with the telephone number to determine a port of a gateway device operable to transmit the call request to the second telephony device, wherein the route list comprises a plurality of route groups, each route group including a list of one or more ports of a plurality of gateway devices; and
communicating the call request to a second call manager controlling the gateway device included in the route list.

Independent Claims 13, 33, and 44 recite similar, although not identical, limitations.

Independent Claim 1 is allowable because *Grabelsky* does not disclose each and every one of these limitations. For example, *Grabelsky* does not disclose that a “route list comprises a plurality of route groups, each route group including a list of one or more ports of a plurality of gateway devices,” as required by Claim 1.

For a teaching of the recited route list, the Office Action cites generally to the text associated with Figure 1 of the patent. Although not explicitly stated in the rejection of Claim 1, Applicant believes that the Office Action is referring to the MGC lists 300 or the MG lists 400 disclosed in *Grabelsky* (e.g., see Column 5, line 57 – Column 6, line 15). For example, the MG list 400 includes the addresses of several media gateways. However, neither of these lists include a plurality of route groups that each include a list of one or more ports of a plurality of gateway devices, as required by Claim 1. As can be seen in Figures 4A and 4B of *Grabelsky*, the lists 300 and 400 do not include any route groups, there are merely a list of media gateways. Furthermore, there is no disclosure elsewhere in *Grabelsky* that the lists could include any route groups.

Therefore, *Grabelsky* does not disclose *each and every* limitation of Claim 1 as required by the patent law. Furthermore, independent Claims 13, 33, and 44 contain similar limitations and are allowable for analogous reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 13, 33, and 44, as well as those claims that depend from these independent claims.

Although Applicants believe that many of the dependent claims contain additional limitations that are not disclosed in *Grabelsky*, Applicants will specifically address the rejection of particular claims as an example. For example, regarding Claims 3, 11, 15-16, 19, 27-32, 35-36 and 45-46, certain of these claims recite a route list control process and various limitations relating to such a route list control process. However, the Office Action does explain how such a process is disclosed in *Grabelsky* (much less how the specific limitations associated with this process are disclosed). Furthermore, the specific limitations of Claims 27-32, relating to a route plan and associated limitations, are again not mentioned at all in the Office Action (they weren’t mentioned in the previous Office Action either, as

previously pointed out by the Applicants). If the Examiner is to maintain the rejection of Claims 3, 11, 15-16, 19, 27-32, 35-36 and 45-46, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner specifically address each and every limitation of each of these claims as is required by the case law and the M.P.E.P. These claims include a variety of different limitations and cannot be summed up and rejected in a sentence, as was again done in the present Office Action. Applicants cannot address a rejection of this type since Applicants cannot ascertain the Examiner's reasoning for finding a disclosure of each of these numerous limitations in *Grabelsky*. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Claim 6 recites, in part, accessing a device name mapping table using the device manager to determine a PID of a first device process executed by the second call manager and controlling the gateway device. Claims 11, 18, 37, and 48 recite similar, although not identical, limitations.¹ The Office Action points to the passage introducing the use of the MGC list 300 for a teaching of the limitations of these claims. However, this passage is simply not related to these limitations. *Grabelsky* fails to disclose accessing a device mapping table to determine a process identification of a first device process executed by a second call manager, as recited in Claim 6, and similarly, although not identically, in Claims 11, 18, 37, and 48. For at least this additional reason, Appellants respectfully request allowance of Claims 6, 11, 18, 37, and 48.

In addition, Claim 23 recites, in part, a device manager operable to receive a signal indicating that a new gateway device has registered with the call manager. Paragraph 23 of the Office Action does not mention any portion of *Grabelsky* that the Examiner asserts as containing a disclosure of a device manager operable to receive a signal indicating that a new gateway device has registered with the call manager. The cited passages do not relate to this limitation. For at least this additional reason, Appellants respectfully request allowance of Claim 23.

¹ The Office Action rejects Claim 11 in Paragraph 5. However, as Appellants previously pointed out to the Examiner multiple times, Claim 11 contains similar limitations to Claims 6, 18, 37, and 48, which are rejected in Paragraph 7.

Moreover, Claim 24 of the present invention recites:

The call manager of Claim 18, wherein the device manager is further operable to:

receive a signal indicating that a gateway device is no longer under the control of the call manager;

delete the device name and associated PID of the gateway device from the device name mapping table; and

communicate a deletion signal to the second call manager coupled to the packet-based network indicating that the device name and associated PID should be deleted from a device name mapping table of the second call manager.

The Examiner also rejects Claim 24 in the Paragraph 5 but does not mention any portion of *Grabelsky* that the Examiner asserts as containing a disclosure of the above limitations. The cited passages do not relate to the limitations quoted above. For at least these additional reasons, Claim Appellants respectfully request allowance of Claim 24.

In addition, Claim 25 recites, in part, a device manager operable to receive a signal indicating that a third call manager has come on-line in the packet-based network. In the Office Action, the Examiner states that *Grabelsky* teaches this limitation at Column 6, line 37 – Column 7, line 23. However, there is nothing in this passages that teaches any sort of signaling indicating a call manager has come on-line. For at least this additional reason, Appellants respectfully request allowance of Claim 25.

Also, Claim 26 recites a device manager operable to receive a signal indicating that the second call manager has gone off-line and delete the device name and associated PID of the gateway devices controlled by the second call manager. In the Office Action, the Examiner states that *Grabelsky* teaches these limitations at Column 7, lines 24-43. Appellants fail to see how this passage relates at all to the recited limitations. For at least this additional reason, Appellants respectfully request allowance of Claim 26.

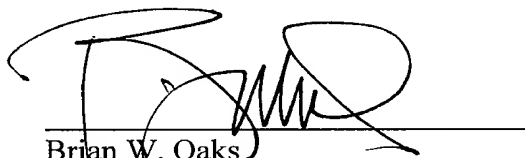
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully requests full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6986.

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